

Item Title: Proclamation Recognizing National Foster Care Month

Specific Action Requested:

That the Board of Commissioners proclaims the month of May as National Foster Care Month and recognizes and honors Foster Parents for the work of caring for abused and neglected children.

Item Summary:

May is National Foster Care Month. Each May, Foster Care Month provides an opportunity for people across the nation to focus attention on the year-round needs of children and youth in foster care. The campaign raises awareness about foster care and encourages additional citizens to get involved in the lives of these youth by becoming foster parents, volunteers, mentors, employers and in many other ways.

Each May we salute the compassionate people who make a difference serving as foster parents. These unsung heroes freely give of themselves serving and meeting the needs of over 563 foster youth in Wake County, 64 of whom are young adults served in our Expanded 18-21 Foster Care Program. These 64 young adults have voluntarily signed themselves into this Expanded Program to continue to be served in reaching their goal of successful transition into adulthood. We salute our many faith and community partners that help support our 170 foster families and our youth in foster care. Many formerly abused or neglected youth will safely reunite with their parents, be cared for by relatives or be adopted by loving families because of the wonderful work provided by these caring citizens.

Foster care is a community approach to support and strengthen families; it is not a substitute for parents. All children deserve a safe, happy life including the 430,000 children and youth in foster care nation-wide. It is vital that young people in foster care have nurturing adults on their side because their own families are in crisis and unable to care for them. Given the importance of National Foster Care Month, Wake County's Foster Care Program requests that the Board of Commissioners declares the month of May as National Foster Care Month.

Attachments:

1. National Foster Care Month Proclamation